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III. REMARKS

Claims 1-8 and 16-27 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 8 and 16 have been amended, claims 9-15 have been cancelled and new claims 21-27 have been added. The above amendments and the following remarks are being made to facilitate early allowance of the claimed subject matter. Applicants do not acquiesce in the correctness of the objections and rejections and reserve the right to present specific arguments regarding any rejected claims not specifically addressed. Further, Applicants reserve the right to pursue the full scope of the subject matter of the original claims in a subsequent patent application that claims priority to the instant application. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claim 8 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants gratefully appreciate this indication. By this Amendment, new claim 27 has been added, which includes the allowable features of the original claims 1 and 8.

In the Office Action, claims 1-7 and 16-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Clevenger et al. (US 2001/0014526 A1). Applicants submit that the claimed subject matter is allowable and thus respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections.

Specifically, with regard to claims 1 and 16, Clevenger et al. do not disclose that "the conductive structure [is] separated from the wiring-layer dielectric by a vertical structure[.]" and that "the vertical structure [is removed] from the area to form a gas dielectric." Clevenger et al. disclose forming conductive structures in the CVD diamond, but use a different method to form

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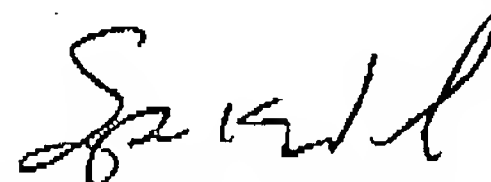
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the conductive structures. In Clevenger et al., the process of forming the conductive structures selectively etches the CVD diamond to provide openings. The openings are filled with conductor. Page 3, paragraphs 38-39. In the Clevenger et al. method, the conductive structure is not separated from the CVD diamond by a vertical structure. The existence of the vertical structure, in the current invention, enables a method of forming "a support connected to the conductive structure" that is distinct to that used in Clevenger et al. Compare, e.g., FIGS. 8-9 and Paragraphs 25-26 of the specification of the current invention with FIGS. 5-6 of Clevenger et al. In view of the foregoing, Clevenger et al. do not disclose each and every claimed feature, and thus do not anticipate the current invention. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections.

Claims 2-8 and 21 are dependent upon claim 1 and claims 17-20 and 22-26 are dependent upon claim 16. Applicants submit that those dependent claims are allowable for the same reasons stated above, as well as for their own additional features.

Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that anything further is necessary to place the application in better condition for allowance, he is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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